



Family Planning – Abortion Alternatives: Making a Decision

During the 1995 Legislative Session, House Bill No. 2246, Act 648 was passed. As a result, the Family Planning Program was mandated to provide the Making a Decision brochure and Abortion Alternatives Directory.

There must be funding, as this is a legislative mandate. If funding is decreased, this will affect funds allocated for printing, updates associated with the brochure and directory (such as the verbiage and contact information on agencies that provide alternative services), mailing, phone expenses, etc. Additional funds will allow more for allocated costs listed.

Objective

To continue providing the Making a Decision Brochure and Directory of Abortion Alternatives as mandated by the state legislature.

Performance Indicator

- Number of brochures and directories distributed.

Narrative

During the 1995 Legislative Session, House Bill No. 2246, Act 648 was passed. This law required doctors to tell patients about the nature of the physical and emotional risks of both the abortion procedure and carrying a child to term. As a result, the Family Planning Program was charged with creating a brochure that offers basic facts to help patients make an informed decision about whether or not they want to have an abortion. The information provided tells about the normal human embryonic and fetal development, and about the methods and risks of abortions. The Program was also mandated to provide a Directory of Abortion Alternatives, which would assist patients who decide to place their baby up for adoption, or need to locate public and private agencies that offer medical and financial help, as well as counseling services.

Better Health

The clients are females of child bearing age. There are no specific demographics. Information is made available to all females that need services. The Directory of Abortion Alternatives and the Making a Decision Brochure are requested from facilities that either perform the procedure, or that have referral services. The Family Planning Program does not collaborate with entities on this activity. The program only provides the brochures and directories upon request, as mandated by the legislature.

House Bill No. 2246, Act 648, 1995 Legislative Session

As previously stated, this law required doctors to tell patients about the nature of the physical and emotional risks of both the abortion procedure and carrying a child to term, which is explained in the Making a Decision brochure. Also included in the law was the mandate to create and publish a Directory of Abortion Alternatives to inform females of public and private agencies and services available to assist them during pregnancy, upon child birth, and while their child is dependent. The directory was to include a comprehensive list of agencies, the services they offer, and their telephone numbers and addresses.